

Private

Catholic Presbytery,
Grouse Nest,
Queensland, Nov- 24, 1934,

Dear Mr Dunne,

The Editor of the "Gulgong" advertiser" advises me that you wrote to him relative to my enquiry in his paper for a copy of Mr J. Slater's book "Sea Foam and Passion Flowers".

I have been a collector of Australiana for many years - the books on early Australian History, exploration, scientific books, prose and poetry - in short all that comes under the heading of Australiana - documents, letters, pictures, prints, bookplates, manuscripts, etc. - My library of purely Australasian literature - including Pacific Islands and New Zealand comprises over 10,000 volumes like Oliver Twist - the Dickens character - I am always seeking more as poetry enters largely into

the field of Australian literature I have a large collection of such but there are yet many volumes missing - among them Mr. Slater's book -

My object in forming my library is to leave to future generations of Queenslanders a reference library on the lines of the Mitchell Library in Sydney. My library will never be commercialized.

I am a New South Wales native having been born at Fredrickton, Macleay River, N. S. W., where my father was Headmaster of the local State School. In after years my father was Headmaster of various schools on the Richmond, Clarence and Tweed Rivers - and for some years he was Headmaster of Gunnedah State School, Liverpool Plains, N. S. W.

As a boy I worked in the office of Bacon & Co., - Auctioneers - Gunnedah, N. S. W., and from that office secured a position as shorthand writer and confidential clerk in a Toowoomba, Queensland, office.

I remained in Toowoomba until I left for St. Columba's College, Springwood in 1911 after eight years in the Springwood and Manly Colleges I was ordained at St. Mary's Cathedral Sydney, in November, 1919 by Archbishop Cattaneo - apostolic Delegate among my classmates were the present co-adjutor Bishop of Lismore - Dr Patrick Farrelley and the Bishop of Rockhampton (Rld) - Dr. R. Hayes - Other Sydney priests who were in my class include Father Cyril Callaghan, Father Leslie Carroll - Father Eric O'Brien Father E. O'Donnell (St. Mary's Cathedral)

During my years as a shorthand writer in Toowoomba I recall reporting very many political celebrities among them the late Alfred Deakin who visited Toowoomba during my years there

I knew the well known Queensland poet - George Essex Evans and have all his works - prose and poetry -

among my collection of manuscripts and letters are letters of Essex Evans and Steele Rudd (A. H. Davis) who used to write to each other. Evans is buried in Toowoomba cemetery -

Mary Gilmore - prominent writer - I met once. Father O'Brien of Bankstown introduced me to her during the only holiday I have ever had. In 1932 I spent a fortnight in Sydney and Melbourne - the only break from parish duties in all those years -

I sometimes see in the "Sydney Morning Herald" letters from a Mr. F. Slater in the "Letters" column and they generally concern aboriginal names, vocabularies and the derivation of place names - a subject in which I am keenly interested. I was for four years P.P. of Taroom, Dawson River, (Qld) and had '400 aboriginal ~~under~~ in my parish. These formed a subject of study and I regularly attended all their corroborees. I baptized married and buried them and on one

occasion had a Nuptial Mass at which
 was a double aboriginal wedding
 two fine full blooded aboriginals and
 two handsome young aboriginal maidens -
 - surely unique in the annals of
 Australian Church History - I have
 been wondering if the Mr. Slater who
 writes in the "S.C.H." is identical
 with the Mr Slater who wrote "Sea Foam
 and Passion Flowers" ?

Groves Nest is a rich
 agricultural and dairying district
 28 miles from Toowoomba. Formerly
 it was the greatest timber district
 in South Queensland and thousands
 of fine pine trees grew on the hills
 and the songs of the sawmills were
 loud in the land.

The flannel flower of N.S.W.
 grows here in the hills near my
 Presbytery but nowhere else on
 the Downs or in South Uld.

I am keenly interested in scrap
 books of newspaper cuttings - no
 matter what State of the Commonwealth

and no matter how old — these scrap books are generally mines of information on all subjects and they reflect the character of the people and their daily round of incidents connected with the years of long ago.

Similarly I collect the historical souvenir books of the inland cities and towns issued on the occasion of Town and City Jubilees — pioneers' re-unions — or "Back Home" Weeks. These have history and reminiscences no other history books ever give. Do you ever see any such?

In my Museum of aboriginal implements are several N.S.W. stone axes — one from Burragorang Valley — several from Tweed River — some from Bathurst others from New England district N.S.W.

I am attaching a list of Books you may possibly know of or see and before I conclude I wish you a very happy Christmas and all God's choicest blessings with it.

I am willing to pay for any copy of
Mr. Slaters' book you may locate -
plus postage - and similarly in
regard to the other copies of books
mentioned by me

Wishing you the best of the
best from Sunny Queensland

I am
Yours sincerely

Rev. Father Leo Hayes

Books required by Rev. Father Leo Hayes
Catholic Presbytery,
Grouse Nest,
Queensland.

Author

Book

(1) F. Slater ^{printed} ~~published~~ "Sea Foam and Passion Flowers"
the "Advertiser" office, Gulgong, N.S.W. 1897 at
and portrait seven illustrations

(2) Philip Durham Lorimer, ("Poems")
published ~~by~~ Gungahlin, 1891

Same author = (2) "Gems we know in
Illawarra"

published Parramatta (about 1895)
by J. Button

Same author

(3) "Songs & Verses"

London, 1901 privately printed by
W. Clowes & Sons, Ltd - with Portrait
Lorimer was a genuine bush poet who
carried his swag about the
country districts of N.S.W.